



King County

December 2004

Vol. IV, No. 2

Contact us:

David Irons

King County Courthouse
Room 1200

516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104-3272

david.iron@metrokc.gov
(206) 296-1012

www.metrokc.gov/iron

**King County Council
Committee Work**

- Budget & Fiscal Management (vice chair)
- Growth Management & Unincorporated Areas (vice chair)
- Labor, Operations & Technology
- Regional Policy
- Regional Transit
- Regional Water Quality
- Transportation

**Regional Committee
Memberships**

- Board of Health
- Cedar River Council, co-chair
- Central Puget Sound Economic Development District
- Eastside Transportation Partnership
- Growth Management Planning Council
- Puget Sound Regional Council's Growth Management Policy Board
- Regional Transportation Investment District, Executive Board alternate
- Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors
- Cedar River Water Habitat Conservation Plan Oversight Committee
- Lake Sammamish State Park Advisory Board
- Eastside Human Services Forum

COMMUNITY NEWS FROM YOUR KING COUNTY
COUNCILMEMBER FOR DISTRICT 12

DAVID IRONS

Dear Community Members,

As the year draws to a close, I would like to extend my warmest greetings for the season while taking this opportunity to share news from King County about transportation, parks, community projects, land use policy and budget issues.

In November, the Metropolitan King County Council unanimously adopted a \$3.4 billion budget for 2005, including a general operating budget of \$538 million. The budget contains approximately \$12.2 million for services and projects in Council District 12.

As Vice Chair of the King County Council's Budget and Fiscal Management Committee, I have tried to bring accountability and fiscal responsibility to the Council's budget deliberations. With my 20 years of experience in the field of technology, I was chosen to chair the Leadership and Strategic Investments (LSI) panel, which was responsible for reviewing all general government operations including internal service funds, general fund overhead, all technology investments and all separately elected officials' budgets.

Advances in technology have allowed government to provide better and faster service to the public in many areas, and I worked on a new policy that requires all projects to have viable business plans before they receive funding. Technology can be government's greatest friend in bringing public accessibility to the process, or it can be our worst budget-draining enemy. We have experienced both, and learned from our experiences. This budget ensures the greatest return in improved service for the investment of our technology dollars. We have measured every project on a scale that demands improvements to efficiency, cost-effectiveness and user-friendliness.

In examining the administrative overhead costs, the LSI panel determined that employee benefits have cost less than had been allocated by previous funding formulas. The 2005 budget refunds the overpayments to the departmental agencies, which reduces employee costs, prevents budget cuts and allows an additional \$6.7 million to go toward services such as roads and parks maintenance.

The 2005 budget also makes provisions for implementation of the controversial Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) and associated land-use legislation. I aimed to help ease the burden of these onerous new regulations on rural property owners by providing additional staff to assist citizens without being charged by the hour. This includes restoration of funding for a King County forester and agriculture staff, and the addition of temporary staff for the Fire Marshal's Office. I also worked to secure funding for a rural economic development strategy and a sub-area plan for businesses along the Maple Valley Highway, and to restore funding for the drinking water protection supervisor at the Department of Public Health.

In District 12, about \$12.2 million is allocated for individual projects, which aim to address traffic congestion and improve parks and recreation opportunities while protecting the environment. Among the funded projects are widening of Issaquah-Fall City Road, operation of the Maple Valley Community Center, conservation of the Issaquah, Carey and Holder Creek confluence, and active recreation for the Ravensdale Trail, as well as \$50,000 for the Friends of the Trail. (See page 2 for list of Capital Improvement Projects.)

Overall, this budget strikes a good balance between government accountability and providing the basic services that citizens expect from County government. I am proud of the progress we made toward more accountable technology expenditures and reducing overhead for all County departments. More information about the 2005 budget package is posted on the Internet at www.metrokc.gov/council/budget.

Thank you for your interest in King County government. I encourage you to review the other articles in this newsletter and to get involved and participate in issues that affect you.

Sincerely,

David W. Irons



Transportation

Elliott Bridge

After several years of planning, it is a pleasure to announce that construction of the new Elliott Bridge finally began in June 2004. Completion is estimated in November 2005.

The new bridge will replace the existing 1913 bridge that carried traffic on 149th Avenue Southeast over the Cedar River to connect with Highway 169. This will allow traffic on the main arterial, 154th Avenue SE, to cross the river and access the highway directly instead of turning on Jones Road to the location of the current bridge.

In 2005, King County will begin construction of new approaches to the bridge from the north and south. Construction of the north bridge approach may require the closure of the intersection at Southeast Jones

Road and 154th Place Southeast for about six weeks.

For more information about the Elliott Bridge replacement project, contact the King County Department of Transportation at (206) 263-3792 or on line at <http://www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/roads/projects/elliottbrdg>.

Issaquah Highlands Park-&-Ride

For those of you who live on the Sammamish plateau and take Highland Drive to Interstate 90, you may have noticed construction fences around the future site of the Issaquah Highlands Park-&-Ride. The King County Department of

Transportation began construction in November of the 1,000-stall park-&-ride, which is scheduled for completion in February 2006.

Three years ago this project was in jeopardy of being reduced to 500 stalls. With the help of Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn and Sound Transit, I was able to maintain the 1,000 stalls initially envisioned. It is so rewarding to see construction begin finally. Soon commuters from the Sammamish Plateau, Snoqualmie Valley and Issaquah Highlands will have expanded, reliable commuting options with more express buses.



Governance

Redistricting coming in 2005

In order to save money in the county budget, the size of the Council will be reduced from 13 to nine members following adoption of a King County Charter amendment at the Nov. 2 general election. The majority of voters chose option 1A, which calls for redrawing the district boundaries by Jan. 15, 2005, followed by election of all nine Councilmembers in November 2005. However, the King County Charter identifies a one-year process for redistricting. That timeline obviously cannot be accommodated in order to meet the citizen-imposed deadline. Thus, the timeline for redrawing the Council districts must be shortened.

I am committed to implementing this citizen-approved initiative. The people have spoken and the King County Council is obligated to comply. A redistricting committee has been formed and public meetings have been scheduled. Representation is at the heart of our democracy, and public involvement will be critical to this redistricting process.

You can learn more about the redistricting proposals and submit your testimony at the following meetings:

- **Wednesday, Jan. 5, 6 p.m.**, North King County, site TBD
- **Thursday, Jan. 6, 6 p.m.**, Auburn City Hall, 25 W. Main St.
- **Saturday, Jan. 8, 10 a.m.**, King County Courthouse, Council Chambers, 516 Third Ave., 10th floor, Seattle

Budget highlights list for District 12

Road improvement funds will go toward:

Issaquah-Fall City Road construction	\$500,000
Bandaret Bridge on May Valley Rd. over Issaquah Creek	\$620,000
Elliott Bridge Completion	\$814,000

Environmental improvement funds will go toward:

Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery	\$20,000
Raging River Development Rights Acquisition	\$400,000
Issaquah Creek Property Acquisition	\$200,000
Laughing Jacobs Creek Surface Water Mngt. Project	\$151,405
Raging River Habitat Restoration & Flood Storage Project	\$270,000
Issaquah Creek Environmental Grant	\$230,000
Issaquah/Carey/Holder Creek Confluence Acquisition	\$740,000
Taylor Creek Floodplain Restoration	\$175,000
Taylor Mountain Forest In-holding Acquisition	\$25,000
Ginder Creek Valley Salmon Habitat Acquisition	\$542,401
Lions Club Channel Restoration	\$201,000

Parks funding will go toward:

Covington/Maple Valley Urban Connector Acquisition	\$150,000
Ravensdale Trail Link Acquisition	\$250,000
Lake Wilderness Trail Crossing at Kent-Kangley Rd.	\$50,000
East Lake Sammamish Trail	\$617,270
Cascade Gun Range Lead Abatement Consultant	\$30,000

Social services funding will go to:

Issaquah Senior Center	\$38,737
Elder and Adult Day Services	\$20,000
Black Diamond Community Center	\$40,144
Maple Valley Community Center	\$79,291

SPAR properties to become affordable housing

In September, the King County Council unanimously approved the sale of eight surplus properties that King County acquired several years ago for the construction of the North Sammamish Plateau Access Road. I sponsored the legislation, which will offer three of the properties below market value for affordable housing development. Two of the houses on these properties fell into disrepair while vacant due to storm damage from falling trees and vandalism. Affordable housing developers, including Life Enrichment Options residential housing program for developmentally disabled adults in Issaquah, have expressed interest in these properties to provide low-income housing.

With a major arterial now running directly adjacent to these homes, and with their current state of disrepair, these homes no longer are suitable for sale on the open market. Rather than tearing them down and selling just the property, the county aims to recoup some of the cost of this major transportation improvement by selling the homes as is. This also provides an opportunity for development of some badly needed affordable housing on the Sammamish Plateau.

Equal benefits ordinance provides flexibility for religious organizations

In September, the King County Council granted religious organizations working with the county's most vulnerable populations the ability to provide benefits to employees and their families with an amendment to the County's Equal Benefits Ordinance.

I co-sponsored the amendment that will allow faith-based organizations to continue providing for vital human services needs, while also ensuring that employees will share equal benefits, no matter their marital status. The change represents

major progress for King County's employment policies, and it meets the needs of all parties.

The Council adopted the Equal Benefits Ordinance in December 2003, requiring contractors with King County to uphold a policy of non-discrimination in the provision of employee benefits. The ordinance applies to all contracts worth \$25,000 or more for provision of goods and services. To comply with the law, a contractor had two choices: to provide equal benefits to all of their employees' spouses and domestic partners, or to deny benefits to all. Some of the organizations that currently have contracts with the county are affiliated with religious organizations. These groups contract to provide services such as emergency shelter for abused women and transitional housing for the homeless. Some organizations raised concerns about providing benefits to "domestic partners" whether they are an unmarried or same-sex couple. The amendment adds a third choice to the EBO for contractors to provide benefits to their employees and another adult living in the employees' homes. The amendment is similar to the equal benefits package provided by the City of Seattle.

Recognition for 35th anniversary of Salmon Days festival

At a September Town Hall meeting of King County Council in Issaquah, I presented a special recognition in honor of the 35th anniversary of the annual Issaquah Salmon Days Festival. The festival on Oct. 2 and 3 brought an estimated 225,000 visitors to the town of 15,000 residents to celebrate the return of chinook, coho and sockeye salmon to spawn in Issaquah Creek.

I took this op-

portunity to congratulate the Greater Issaquah Chamber of Commerce and the City of Issaquah on their partnership that makes this celebration possible. The festival provides an ideal opportunity to raise public awareness about the lifecycle of the salmon, our Northwest icon, and about their habitat needs as well as responsible watershed stewardship. It also brings a major economic windfall to the community, with non-profit organizations raising thousands of dollars for community improvement projects and activities in Issaquah. More than 500 volunteers contribute their time to organize the Festival, and partnerships with more than 60 non-profit organizations raise nearly half a million dollars at the Festival to support community, school and social services in Issaquah. The result contributes an estimated \$5 million to the local economy, and priceless environmental education to the residents of the region.

The festival began in 1970 with artists, local school groups and the Kiwanis Salmon Bake celebrating the fall return of spawning salmon and spotlighting the historic 1936 Issaquah Salmon Hatchery, the most-visited and the only in-city hatchery in the state. The 35th annual festival this year, with the theme "Go Fish!" featured arts, crafts, entertainment, food, a Grande Parade, hands-on activities and educational exhibits, mostly focusing on salmon. The festival has been recognized with numerous county, state and national awards and a bronze award at the International Festivals and Events Association.



From left, Issaquah Mayor Ava Frisinger, Issaquah Salmon Days Director Robin Kelley, Greater Issaquah Chamber of Commerce President Joan Probala and Chamber Executive Director Suzanne Suther join Councilmember Irons for a recognition of the festival's 35th anniversary.

2004 Comprehensive Plan Update

The 2004 update to the King County Comprehensive Land Use Plan, completed in July, focused on two strategies: one for the urban areas and one for the rural areas. As vice chair of the Growth Management and Unincorporated Areas Committee, I focused on rural land use policies.

The rural area policies focused on supporting agriculture by allowing farmers markets, processing value-added goods, allowing more storage and parking for home businesses, and modifying natural area and water supply policies. In addition, parks and recreation operations reflect a shift to becoming a regional provider of open space, parks, trails, natural ecological areas and working resource lands and providing local services to rural residents.

The urban area policies focused on encouraging cities to annex unincorporated areas, directing development to further encourage public transportation and improve public health, encouraging the use of green building practices for county buildings and recommending voluntary use of these practices in the private sector, and the use of a new transportation concurrency model.

This policy document sets important policy direction for establishing strategies to implement the county's land-use vision. The emphasis this year was continuing the change from being mostly a local service provider to more of a regional service provider with a local service responsibility in the rural area. This legislation was moved through the Council in less than five months, without adequate time for review and discussion regarding the significant policy changes in the county's roles. Neither the growth management committee nor the council had time to fully review the policies because of the concurrent review of the Critical Areas Ordinance and associated land-use legislation.

Even though I believe the process could have been much better, I was able to make some positive changes for the agriculture community and rural residents. Farm stands and cooperatives now can sell products such as jams, cheeses, dried herbs and similar items on site. The Council also requested an analysis of home-business and home-industry regulations and the development of a rural economic development strategy, to be submitted to

the Council by Dec. 31, 2005. Finally, direction was given for a subarea in Maple Valley to study the businesses along the Maple Valley Highway with funding provided in the 2005 budget. I am happy to say I was successful in finding funding to support these Comprehensive Plan policy projects.

CAO, Stormwater and Clearing & Grading updates

The whirlwind review of the CAO/Stormwater/Clearing & Grading regulatory package, with some modifications, ended with Council approval of these policies on a 7-6 vote in October. I voted "No" on these ordinances, but because proposed referenda have been filed on these ordinances, legal counsel has advised that my newsletter should not support or oppose the CAO ordinance package, as these are now ballot propositions.

This package of ordinances was driven by the state's Growth Management Act (GMA) and the county's Comprehensive Plan Policies as well as the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Clean Water Act. The

GMA requires each county and city to adopt development regulations to protect critical areas, and requires jurisdictions to use best available science in developing those land-use policies and regulations. The GMA further states that special consideration shall be given to conservation or protection measures necessary to preserve and enhance anadromous fisheries. King County's proposals to meet these state and federal requirements were developed and presented by the County

Executive last March.

The good news

I worked hard with the GMUAC chair to review these proposals on a tight schedule. I put forward amendments to perfect the legislation. The many questions raised by Councilmembers and the large volume of public testimony resulted in changes to the Executive's proposed legislation.

The following changes were adopted by Council. Flexible wetland buffers were adopted that consider the individual property characteristics to determine buffer widths. The 10-percent limit on impervious surface area was eliminated. Clearing limits were scaled to lot size. A greater range of uses was allowed in forested areas, enabling property owners to use fire-prevention best management practices. The need for a permit to remove



noxious weeds was eliminated. The amount of clearing allowed without a permit was clarified. State standards for roads were allowed on unharvested portions of forested property. Short plats were allowed to comply with the land-use laws that were in place at the time of application for a period of five years after recording.

Recent Actions Related to the Ordinances

In November the Council approved a fixed fee for a new consolidated site review for residential development to make the cost of development around critical areas more predictable. The Council also required the Department of Development and Environmental Services to monitor permit efficiency through exit interviews. Funding was provided for technical assistance on farm and rural stewardship plans and tax incentive programs. The 2005 budget allocated funding for extra staff to work with property owners on CAO issues without charging an hourly rate. During the budget process, I worked to make sure the county provides the resources and staffing necessary to implement the ordinances. The details of these items can be reviewed at www.metrokc.gov/mkcc/cao/implementation.htm.

Many of you have been waiting to review the public rules for implementation of the CAO. These rules were released on Nov. 22, 2004 on the Farm Management and Rural Stewardship Plans. Public comment will be accepted until Jan. 7, 2005. Also, new public rules on the Forest Stewardship Plan will be issued soon. Public comments may be submitted by mail, telephone, e-mail or by in-person testimony at King County's Water & Land Resources Division office, 201 S. Jackson St., Room 600, Seattle, WA 98104. More information is available at www.metrokc.gov/cao or by calling (206) 296-6519. If you have any questions, please contact my office.

I have introduced legislation to place the public rules for the Farm Management Plans and for the Rural Stewardship Plans into the CAO ordinance, due to concerns I have after reading the proposed rules. These are important tools that the Council expressed over and over again would provide flexibility to the fixed regulations in the ordinance. My concerns with the rules include the following:

- Both the Farm Management Rule and particularly the Rural Stewardship Plan are very vague, leaving

many unknowns to be addressed as an applicant goes through the process.

- Farm Management Plans are to be registered with the County, and it's not clear what that means. Rural Stewardship Plans are to be recorded with Records and Elections. The Council's intent was to eliminate Notice on Title.

- We put money in the 2005 budget for staff at DDES to help provide technical assistance, but the Rural Stewardship rule talks about fee-based technical assistance.

- For two different properties, side by side, one may have an agriculture use and the other may be used for residential purposes. One property owner would have a Farm Plan and the other a Rural Stewardship Plan. But the plans would be developed by two staff in two different agencies, without consistency in the implementation of the rules.

- The Rural Stewardship Public Rule requires a bond agreement for best management practices and performance measures prior to site development permit. Why?

- The Critical Area designation is good only for two years with a Stewardship Plan. Why?

- The Stewardship Plan, as written, is very rigorous and does not reward owners for taking care of their properties.

- In making sure county land use codes are implemented, DDES has a lot of impact on the plans even though other staff is helping and approving the plans.

- Total cost for the development of a plan for a property owner is unclear based on the proposed rules.

For these reasons, I have put forward the ordinance. I look forward to and encourage your input on this legislation.

In November, the Citizens' Alliance for Property Rights filed a referendum on each of the ordinances to overturn the Critical Areas Ordinance package. A petition drive is underway to collect signatures, which are due to be filed with the Records & Elections office by Jan. 1, 2005. Subsequently, the County Executive, 1000 Friends of Washington and Center for Environmental Law and Policy (CELP) filed a legal challenge to the three referenda.

In addition to these actions, other legal challenges may be filed. I will share additional information as it develops.



Parks & Recreation

Cedar River Bike Trail

After several years of planning and waiting, the Cedar River Bike Trail finally is useable and open to the public. Finishing work on Phase II will be entirely completed in December with the installation of guardrails. However, while Phase III is useable, additional work will be completed in the spring of 2005.

Three items in the Phase III work still need correction but do not prevent use of the trail. An asphalt overlay in the spring will correct improper compaction. Additional work on the sub-grade preparation will be needed to correct sub-base problems on the alternate 1.65-mile section between the river and the Lake Wilderness Connector, which has not been paved following the development of sink holes. In addition, the decking over the Cedar River at Witte Road was certified for construction loads, but some of the panels developed cracks. Although they have been replaced, the bridge will be closed to vehicular traffic.

I will keep you updated in the spring as these corrections are made. In spite of these problems, it is good to have this trail open for public use after all these years.

Lake Sammamish State Park Advisory Committee

Because of low attendance, the Washington State Parks Commission has been working to create a redevelopment plan for Lake Sammamish State Park in Issaquah. In response to public concerns regarding a draft plan, the state agency decided in early 2004 to create a citizens group to help work through issues and gather additional input on the redevelopment plan. I was appointed to the advisory committee, and meetings began in May 2004.

Since June, the committee has worked to gather additional input and worked through a design competition process. In November, the committee completed a milestone by sending a recommendation on the architectural proposals to the State Parks Commission.

I encourage you to follow and participate in this process at www.parks.wa.gov/plans/lksamm/. Inquiries or questions also can be submitted to the state parks staff: www.Peter.Herzog@parks.wa.gov, (360) 902-8652 phone or (360) 664-0278 fax, P.O. Box 42650, Olympia, WA 98504-2669.

UACs

I would like to thank the many dedicated volunteers who serve on the two Unincorporated Area Councils in District 12. If you live in an unincorporated area and would like to get involved with providing advice and recommendations to the Metropolitan King County Council, please attend your local UAC meeting:

- Four Creeks UAC, meets at 7 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month at the East Renton Community Church. Contact Chair Rick Spence at landingpad@acninc.net.
- Greater Maple Valley UAC, meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of each month at King County Police Precinct #3 in Maple Valley. Contact Chair Dick Bonewits at richb2@msn.com.

On-line Resources

- Parcel Viewer and iMap property information: www.metrokc.gov/gis/mapportal
- Property Tax Information: webapp.metrokc.gov/KCTaxinfo
- Transit Trip Planner: tripplanner.metrokc.gov
- King County Comprehensive Plan: www.metrokc.gov/ddes/compplan
- Critical Areas Ordinance: <http://www.metrokc.gov/mkcc/cao/index.htm>
- Transportation Concurrency: www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/tp/concurr/conindex.htm

Vehicle Donations

Habitat for Humanity gets heavy-duty help

In November, Habitat for Humanity of East King County received an early Christmas gift that will help the non-profit organization in its mission to build homes for low-income residents who otherwise would not be able to buy a home.

I was please to deliver a one-ton GMC flatbed truck to Habitat's current project at Patterson Park in Redmond. The 12-year-old surplus King County vehicle will be used to haul materials and equipment for Habitat's home-building projects. The vehicle will replace the organization's old flatbed truck that had become too worn down and expensive for Habitat to maintain.

This is an excellent example of how King County can offer a little bit of help, and the impacts are multiplied many times over through the investment of private support. King County could no longer use this vehicle, but it still has some useful life that will contribute to improving our community. This kind of public/private partnership provides many benefits for the citizens of King County.

I first found out about the organization's need for a replacement truck through my work with Habitat for Humanity building houses as a church volunteer. At the County Council, I introduced a supplemental budget amendment during the summer to donate the surplus county truck to Habitat rather than sending it to the vehicle auction.

"King County has been a wonderful partner with Habitat for Humanity East King County over the years," said EKC Habitat Executive Director Tom Granger. "We were so surprised and grateful when Councilmember Irons notified us of this valuable gift. Our staff, AmeriCorps members and volunteers thank the county and the council."

Habitat for Humanity International, a non-profit,



Councilmember Irons (right) presents the keys to the donated 1992 GMC flatbed truck to Phil Jaegge of Habitat for Humanity East King County. AmeriCorps construction workers Nick Gardner (left) and Matt Kretzmann will use the truck to haul materials and equipment to build 24 townhomes at the Patterson Park project now underway in Redmond.

ecumenical Christian housing ministry, seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat invites people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need.

Since the East King County chapter was founded in 1988, the affiliate has built 58 homes in the cities of Carnation, Sammamish, Issaquah, Bellevue, Kirkland, Newcastle, and Snoqualmie. Currently under construction are two homes in Snoqualmie and seven townhomes at Patterson Park, where a total of 24 will be built. For more information about how to volunteer or donate to Habitat for Humanity projects, call (425) 869-6007 or visit <http://www.habitatekc.org>.

Friends of Youth receives surplus van

In October 2004, I delivered a surplus King County Metro Vanpool van to The Friends of Youth, which is based in Redmond with a center in Issaquah. Accepting the van were (from left) Howard Finck, Arthel Burkland and Christopher Logan. Friends of Youth will use its van to provide transportation for the homeless youth and homeless young mothers with their babies who use the center's services. The program will be able to transport young people in need to doctor's appointments, counseling appointments, school, work and other important daily activities. Each year, the County Council donates retired vans to non-profit groups and local government agencies for the transportation of low-income clients, the elderly and the disabled.



See more on page 8



David Irons

King County Courthouse
Room 1200
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104-3272

david.ironson@metrokc.gov
(206) 296-1012
www.metrokc.gov/ironson

PRSRT STD
US Postage

PAID

Seattle, WA
Permit No. 1788

Information for our community:

- Budget message from Councilmember Irons
- Land Use Updates
- Transportation Updates
- Parks and Recreation Updates

Van will take at-risk kids to PAL programs

In October 2004, I delivered a surplus King County Metro Vanpool van to the Maple Valley precinct of the King County Sheriff's Office, for use by the private, non-profit Police Activities League (PAL). Accepting the van were (from left) Dpt. Paul Aio, Capt. D.J. Nesel, PAL organizer Sgt. Reid Johnson, PAL President Dpt. Carlos Bratcher, Det. Jeff Johnson, Dpt. Jeff Dorsch, Maj. Dave Germani and Sgt. Andrea Alexander. PAL, a new organization in King County, is part of the national network of programs that use volunteer police officers to coach sports activities for at-risk youth, in an effort to promote positive interaction and respect for law enforcement. PAL will use its van to provide transportation for students participating in the program from their schools to the activities.

